

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEA-01 PRS-01 PA-01

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R 130755Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0835

USERDA GERMANTOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 7885

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJ: CHANNEL BOX DAMAGE, FUKUSHIMA-2 REACTOR

ERDA PLEASE PASS TO NRC FOR LAFLEUR

1. THE FOLLOWING RELEASE WILL BE MADE AT 1630 HOURS JUNE 13, TOKYO TIME.

1) IN THE PERIODIC EXAMINATION OF THE SECOND UNIT (784 MWE BWR) OF THE FIRST FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR POWER STATION OF THE TOKYO ELECTRIC POWER CO. (TEPCO), EXAMINATION OF ALL THE 548 FUEL ASSEMBLIES REVEALED DAMAGE IN THREE OF THE 548 CHANNEL BOXES WHOSE FUNCTION IS TO PROTECT THE FUEL ASSEMBLIES. THE PERIODIC EXAMINATION BEGAN IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

2) NOTHING ABNORMAL WAS FOUND IN THE OBSERVATION OF THE FUEL ASSEMBLIES CONDUCTED AFTER THE ABOVE THREE CHANNEL BOXES WERE TAKEN OUT.

3) A PROBABLE CAUSE OF THE DAMAGE OF THE CHANNEL BOXES IS THAT THE IN-PILE INSTRUMENTATION THIMBLE CONTACTED THE CHANNEL BOXES AS THE THIMBLE VIBRATED OWING TO THE FLOW FROM THE COOLING HOLE PROVIDED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE REACTOR CORE.

4) DETAILED EXAMINATION WILL BE CONDUCTED ON FUKUSHIMA-2 DURING THE PERIODIC EXAMINATION PERIOD.

5) THE FIRST HAMAOKA REACTOR (540 MWE, UNDERGOING TEST
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RUN) AND THE THIRD FUKUSHIMA REACTOR (784 MWE, UNDERGOING TEST RUN) HAVE CORE BOTTOM COOLING HOLES SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE FUKUSHIMA-2 REACTOR. ON THOSE TWO REACTORS, FROM THE RECORDS OF NEUTRON FLUX MEASUREMENTS, IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT THERE IS

NO DAMAGE IN THE CHANNEL BOXES. ALSO, AS A RESULT OF MEASUREMENTS OF THE VIBRATION OF THE IN-PILE INSTRUMENTATION THIMBLES, IT WAS FOUND THAT, IF THE FLOW RATE IN THE REACTOR CORE IS REDUCED TO BELOW 40 PERCENT OF THE RATED VALUE, NO CONTACT OCCURS BETWEEN THE THIMBLE AND THE CHANNEL BOX. FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF MAINTAINING THE SOUNDNESS OF THE CHANNEL BOXES, WE HAVE INSTRUCTED THE CHUBU AND TOKYO EPCO'S TO MAKE THE CORE FLOW RATE BELOW 40 PERCENT.

6) AS FOR FUTURE ACTION, WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE MEASURES TO FOR PREVENTION OF VIBRATION OF IN-PILE INSTRUMENTATION THIMBLES, CONSIDERING THE RESULTS OF THE DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE FUKUSHIMA-2 REACTOR.
HODGSON

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